MARVEL

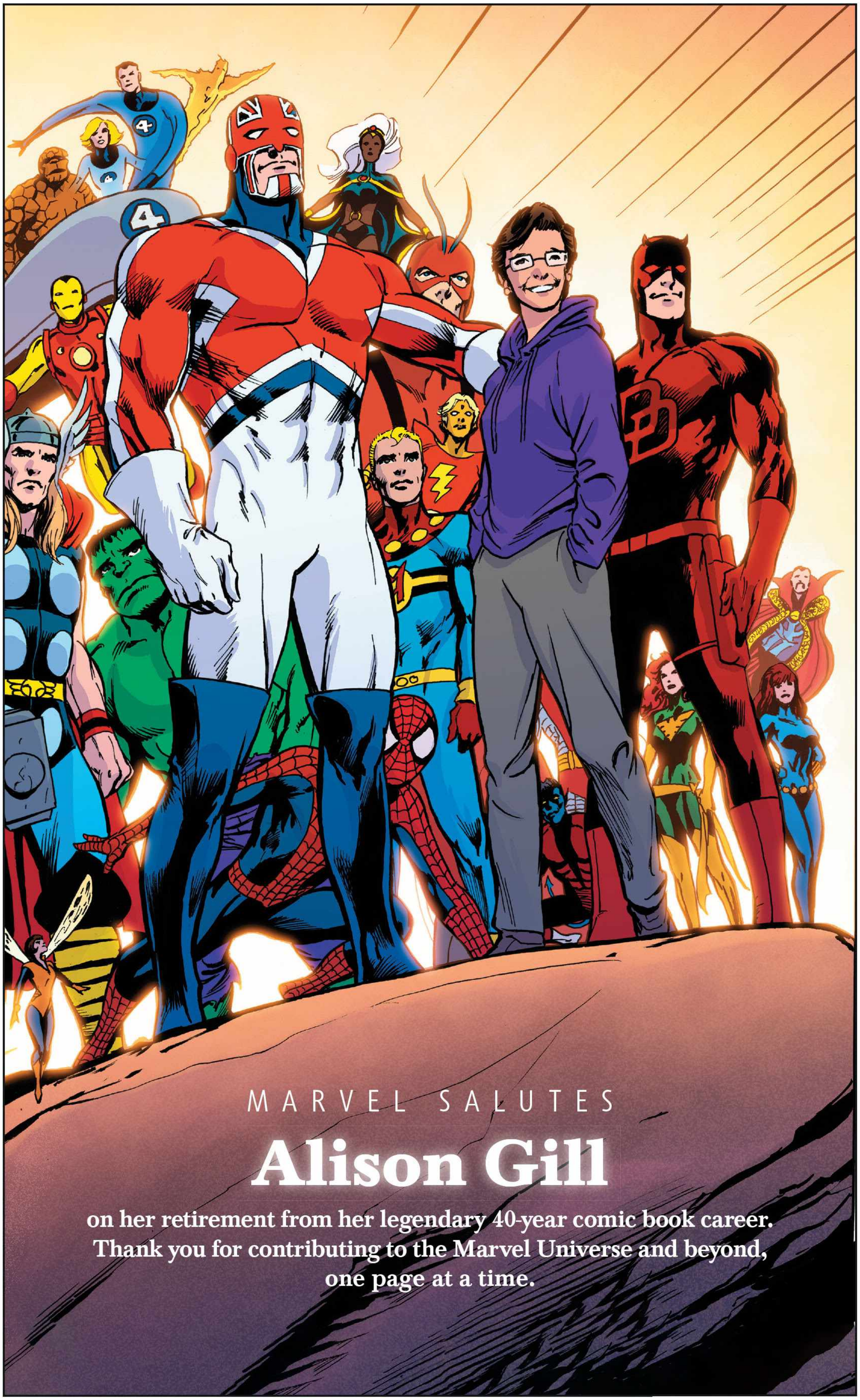
8

LGY#220

EWING
CHATER
ALLEN
YEUNG
ABURTOV

BLACK PANTHER

THE X-MEN'S *MONET* DEMANDS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING!


MARVEL SALUTES
Alison Gill
on her retirement from her legendary 40-year comic book career.
Thank you for contributing to the Marvel Universe and beyond,
one page at a time.

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. IN THE UNREST THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA TO BRING PEACE TO WAKANDA. BUT EVEN IF HE IS NO LONGER KING, T'CHALLA WILL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK PANTHER. AND THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALWAYS SERVE WAKANDA.

POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS ALL OVER BIRNIN T'CHAKA HAVE DISAPPEARED. THEIR COMMON ENEMY IS ONE MAN: BABA NKISU, HEAD OF THE NKISU CRIME FAMILY. BUT WHEN BLACK PANTHER WENT TO CONFRONT BABA NKISU, THE DARK SPIRIT KIVU'MA—A.K.A. THE GREY WOLF—HAD ALREADY ELIMINATED HIM, AND NKISU'S DAUGHTER, ALIINYA, TOOK OVER THE FAMILY. DISGUISED AS IZE THE DISHWASHER, T'CHALLA BEGAN WORKING FOR THE NKISUS IN ORDER TO GATHER INTEL, WHICH LED HIM AND THE THIEF BEISA TO THE WAKANDAN VACATION HOME OF CARTIER ST. CROIX, ONE OF NKISU'S ALLIES. WAITING FOR THEM THERE WAS CARTIER'S DAUGHTER, MONET—THE POWERFUL MUTANT KNOWN AS M—WANTING TO KNOW WHO DARED BREAK INTO HER FAMILY'S HOME...

BLACK PANTHER

REIGN AT DUSK PART 8

EVE L. EWING
WRITER

MACK CHATER AND CHRIS ALLEN
PENCILERS

MACK CHATER AND CRAIG YEUNG
INKERS

JESUS ABURTOV
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

TAURIN CLARKE
COVER ARTIST

PHIL NOTO; DAN PANOSIAN
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

SARAH SPADACCINI
PRODUCTION DESIGN

MICHELLE MARCHESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MS. ST. CROIX. I MEANT NO ***DISRESPECT*** IN YOUR FATHER'S HOME. I AM HERE ON ***URGENT*** BUSINESS.

BUT I MUST CONFESS THAT I AM ***SURPRISED*** TO SEE YOU. AREN'T MUTANTS GLOBAL FUGITIVES? MEANT TO BE IMPRISONED ON SIGHT?*

*SEE FALL OF X.

CERTAINLY. I WAS ALERTED THAT ONE OF THE PSIONIC BARRIERS I HAVE PLACED UPON ALL OF MY FAMILY'S PROPERTIES HAD BEEN BREACHED, SO I CAME STRAIGHTAWAY. I AM ***NOT*** SUPPOSED TO ***BE*** HERE.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR. AND YOU'RE TRESPASSING!

I AM THE BLACK PANTHER. NO STEP I TAKE ON *WAKANDAN LAND* CAN EVER BE *TRESPASS*.

THE *DISGRACED KING* EXILED, AND WAKANDA HAS GONE TO SEED. CHARLATANS PRETENDING TO BE THE--

MS. ST. CROIX, PLEASE. *STOP* THIS NONSENSE AND WE CAN *TALK*. I BELIEVE WE WANT THE SAME *THING*.

THIS IS STILL MY HOUSE.

THIS IS STILL MY COUNTRY.

WE CAN END THIS, MONET! YIELD!

NEV--

ARRRGH!

MY SKIN... *RED DIAMOND*... HOW DID YOU...?

VIBRANIUM.

DO YOU *YIELD?*

THAT'S NOT IN MY *NATURE.*

URRRK!

NO ONE HAS *TIME* FOR YOUR *NATURE, SIS.*

YIELD.

SO HERE'S THE DEAL. HE'S THE *REAL* BLACK PANTHER. AND IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING, HE WILL *KILL* YOU.

AND IF YOU HAVE *INFORMATION*...I, FOR ONE, PREFER YOU *ALIVE.*

HM. SO HE IS.

I SEE. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MY *FATHER*. SO AM I.

WHAT...?

SHE'S A *TELEPATH*.

...AND *TELEKINETIC*.

FUN.

WHERE *IS* HE? KIDNAPPED? WORSE?

MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS IS *MY* CONCERN.

LET ME *HELP* YOU.

YOUR FATHER IS NOT THE *ONLY* ONE MISSING. TELL US WHAT YOU *KNOW*.

THAT'S NOT AN ALLIANCE THAT *INTERESTS* ME AT THE MOMENT. YOU HAVE NO SKIN IN THE GAME. FOR YOU, THIS IS *SPORT*. FOR ME, THIS IS *FAMILY*.

BUT... IF YOU CAN *READ MINDS*...

...YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT I'VE *LOST* SOMEONE *TOO*.

BIRNIN T'CHAKA. THE NKISU FAMILY COMPOUND.

NO! NO! *HELP ME*, DAUGHTER! DON'T LET HIM--!

HELP ME, ALIINYA! WHY WON'T YOU *HELP?*

NNNNNHHHH!

ALIINYA!!!

NO!

BACK AT THE ST. CROIX COUNTRY ESTATE...

I SEE... HMM. AND SHE WENT MISSING AT AROUND THE *SAME TIME* AS WELL.

SOMEONE YOU LOVE *DEARLY.*

SO THERE IT IS! YOU GET TO *PROBE* OUR DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRETS AT WILL.

NOW TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *FATHER.* IT'S ONLY FAIR.

WHAT HAPPENED...

A GHOST SELLING A *DREAM.* MY FATHER TRYING TO RECLAIM SOME OF THE FORTUNE HE'S *LOST* THROUGH MY SIBLINGS AND OUR...*ORDEALS.* OPPORTUNISM. *SPACE.*

SPACE?

I'M GIVING YOU THE BROAD CONTOURS HERE.

YOU'RE SPEAKING IN *RIDDLES* AFTER WE WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SPARE YOUR *LIFE.*

IT'S *INCREDIBLY* SWEET THAT YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

COFFEE?

MY FATHER MADE A DEAL WITH *BABA NKISU.*

SHADY GUY TO DO *BUSINESS* WITH.

I COUNSELED AGAINST IT. HE *IGNORED* ME.

BABA WOULD FRONT THE MONEY, AND MY FATHER WOULD BE THE FACE OF *LEGITIMACY.* TITAN OF INDUSTRY. AMBASSADOR.

THE KIND OF RESPECTABLE COVER BABA *NEEDED.*

YES. THEY WERE BUILDING A...*HRM.* A *FACILITY.*

OFF-WORLD.

THROUGH SOME CORRUPT CHANNELS, BABA HAD ACCESS TO WAKANDAN INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHAT?! TO DO *WHAT?*

SHELTER THE *WICKED.* WHAT'S BETTER THAN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OR OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS FOR ILLEGAL DEALINGS?

OFF-PLANET ACCOUNTS.

AND WHO WAS *USING* IT? TO STORE *WHAT?*

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU IS NOT INFORMATION I GOT...*CONSENSUALLY.* AND THAT MADE MY FATHER *FURIOUS.* SO I STOPPED PRYING.

A WEEK LATER, HE *DISAPPEARED* WITHOUT A *TRACE.*

BACK IN BITI...

ALIINYA. MY DAUGHTER.

YOU ARE... YOU ARE NOT MY FATHER. MY FATHER IS DEAD. NOR DID HE EVER LOOK UPON ME *SOFTLY* IN *LIFE.*

AH. HE *TOLD* ME WHAT A CLEVER GIRL HIS DAUGHTER WAS.

NO, MY LITTLE PLUM. I AM HIS TRUSTED PARTNER. AND *MESSENGER.* HE SPEAKS THROUGH ME.

I AM PROUD OF YOU, ALIINYA. SO PROUD.

AND NOW YOU MUST *FINISH* MY WORK. IT IS *IMPORTANT.*

DESTROYING THE ILONGA FAMILY SYNDICATE?

YES. BUT SOMETHING MUCH *BIGGER.*

THE BLACK PANTHER WHO *KILLED* YOU?

HE WILL DIE AS *WELL.*

BUT I HAVE BIGGER PLANS FOR YOU, MY CHILD. DRESS YOURSELF. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

I NEED TO GO. URGENT X-MEN BUSINESS.

WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU SHOULD BE *PLENTY.* ALERT ME IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW.

IF YOU BRING MY FATHER BACK, PANTHER...

...I WILL BE IN YOUR *DEBT.*

IT'S RUDE THAT SHE GETS TO DO *THAT* AND WE HAVE TO TAKE THE *TRAIN* BACK.

I *LIKE* THE TRAIN.

A BIT LATER...

YOUR *PRIVATE CAR.*

THANK YOU KINDLY.

MAYBE THERE WILL BE A *MURDER MYSTERY...*

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACE THE *PAPER TRAIL* OF ST. CROIX'S BUSINESS DEALINGS. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT HE WAS *DOING.*

INDEED.

THIS IS A WNR WESTERN FALCON TRAIN. NEXT STOP IS T'KIVA HILLS, FOLLOWED BY BIRNIN T'CHAKA. THE **DINING CAR** IS NOW **OPEN**. THANK YOU FOR RIDING WAKANDAN NATIONAL RAIL.

SWHOOOOOSH

WHY DIDN'T YOU--?

WHEN YOU ASKED ME IF SOMEONE I KNEW WAS AMONG BABA NKISU'S ***DISAPPEARED?*** I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE ***TRUTH*** BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST YOU.

YOU TRUSTED ***MONET ST. CROIX?***

SHE'S A TELEPATH. SHE WOULD KNOW ANYWAY. BETTER TO GIVE HER A BREADCRUMB. MAKE HER TRUST ***US.***

AND ANYWAY, ***YOU'RE*** NOT ONE TO TALK. YOU HAVE ***PLENTY*** OF SECRETS.

WHAT ***SECRETS?*** I'M A ***FUGITIVE***, AND YET ***HERE*** I AM. I HAVE SHOWN YOU ***AMPLE*** TRUST.

BAST KNOWS ***WHY!***

OKAY, FINE. WHY DID YOU COME TO BIRNIN T'CHAKA?

TO LEARN.

THE MOST *LEARNED* MAN IN *WAKANDA!*

AND WHAT HAVE YOU *LEARNED?*

NATIMA, I HAVE LEARNED MORE IN THE CITY OF MY FATHER THAN ANY MORTAL TEACHER COULD *CONVEY.*

"THE ELDERS SAY: 'THE BEAST IN THE BUSH DRAWS MORE BLOOD THAN THE BEAST THAT ROARS.' TO BE A *WISE* LEADER IS TO *LEARN* THE CONTOURS OF YOUR OWN *IGNORANCE*. WE NEED NOT *ACCEPT THEM*--BUT WE MUST *RESPECT* THEM.

COMPOUND OF THE ILONGA FAMILY--MORTAL ENEMIES OF THE NKISUS.

I KNOW YOU ARE *HESITANT*, BROTHER. BUT THE NKISU GIRL, BY ALL REPORTS, HAS NO CONTROL.

SHE IS WILD. *UNDISCIPLINED*. THIS IS OUR TIME.

BUT THERE WERE THOSE *DISAPPEARANCES*, KASINDA. WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. BUT BABA NKISU WAS *CONCENTRATING* HIS *POWER*.

WHAT WAS BEHIND THAT? A DEVICE? A STRATEGY?

YOU'RE SAYING WE *STEAL* IT. WHATEVER "*IT*" IS.

I'M SEEING A *FEW* HOTSPOTS FOR THE *MISSING*, BOSS. ONE BIG ONE--

--SEVERAL OF THEM PASSED WITHIN THIS SAME THREE-KILOMETER REGION.

GOOD WORK. SO WE SET UP SOME *DECOYS* THERE. BUT WE CAN'T SPARE ANY *MANPOWER* RIGHT N--

OW!

NOT A *PROBLEM*, WORO. WE CAN *GET* SOMEONE.

"I HAVE LEARNED THAT WAKANDA IS SO MUCH *BIGGER* THAN I EVER UNDERSTOOD. NOT ONLY ITS PLAINS AND ITS VALLEYS--BUT ALSO THE *HEARTS* OF OUR PEOPLE. THEIR CAPACITY TO *HOPE*. TO *HELP*.

AND SO THE *FOURTH* DERIVATIVE...

THAT'S NOT THE WAY MY *TEACHER* DOES IT.

YES, WELL. *MENTAL MATH* IS A GOOD THING TO PRACTICE EVEN IN *TODAY'S* WORLD, ZANEEBA.

N'YOBI!

THE *DEBT COLLECTORS* HAVE *RETURNED!* GO THROUGH THE BACK, QUICKLY!

WELL, GOOD *AFTERNOON!* WELCOME TO FAIZA'S! WHAT CAN I *GET* YOU?

"AND I HAVE SEEN THE FULL ARRAY OF PEOPLE'S *HURTS*. THEIR *RAGE*, AND *PAIN*. PETTY INDIFFERENCE. GREED. THE WILLINGNESS OF A FEW TO INFLICT HARM ON THE *MANY*."

HELLO, STRANGER.

UNH!

CONGRATULATIONS TO **EACH** OF YOU ON YOUR NEW **EMPLOYMENT**. YOU'LL BE HELPING THE ILLUSTRIOUS **ILONGA** FAMILY WITH A **VERY** SPECIAL PROJECT.

I HAVE LEARNED TO BE MORE *HUMBLE* THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

PARADOXICALLY, I FEEL *STRONGER* THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

WITHOUT YOUR *CROWN?* YOUR POWER? YOUR ELITE TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS? THE PROTECTION OF YOUR FAMILY?

THAT'S JUST IT, NATIMA.

I THOUGHT THOSE THINGS DEFINED *WHAT* I WAS. *WHO* I WAS.

HAD YOU MET ME AND ASKED ME, "*WHO ARE YOU?*" I WOULD HAVE SAID...

"*I AM THE KING OF A GREAT NATION.*"

AND NOW? WHO ARE YOU?

I AM *T'CHALLA.* AND I AM SO MUCH *MORE* THAN MY *THRONE.*

NOW ARRIVING AT BIRNIN T'CHAKA.

WE'VE ARRIVED, MY FRIEND...

"THE CITY OF YOUR *FATHER.*"

WHAT DO YOU WISH TO *SHOW* ME, FATHER? THIS IS OUR FAMILY'S BURYING PLACE. I WAS JUST HERE, TO...TO...

YOU CAN SAY IT, CHILD. YOU LAID ME TO *REST* HERE. BUT, MY DAUGHTER, YOU SEE, I AM NOT GONE!

AND THE OTHERS...*NONE* OF THEM ARE *GONE!*

OTHERS?

OH YES. SO MANY OTHERS. EVERYONE THINKS THEY'VE *DISAPPEARED,* YOU SEE.

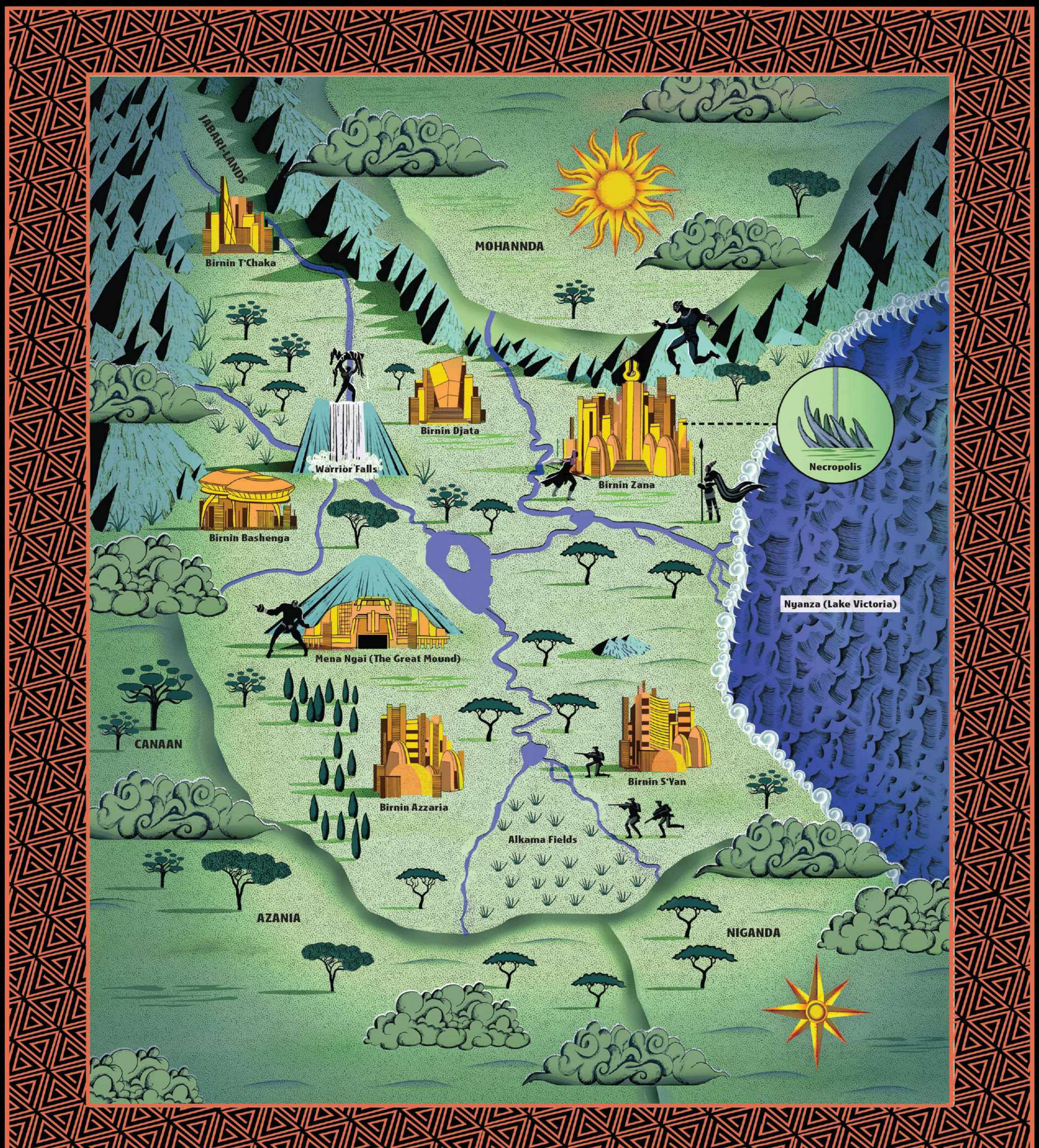
NO ONE EVER *LEAVES* US, MY DEAR ONE.

THEY ARE ONLY *TRAVELING.*

NEXT: AD ASTRA!

MAP OF WAKANDA

BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE: MAP BY MAP** (2021).



BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

BITI BANTER

OH NO, THEY GOT N'YOBI! It's me again, assistant editor Michelle Marchese, Protector of N'Yobi. Before I go on a diatribe about how terrifying Kivu'Ma is in this issue—let's just say that for those of us who are very, very afraid of Kivu'Ma AND very, very distressed for N'Yobi, next issue is gonna be a real nail-biter!—we should get straight into it, so here's Eve L. Ewing with a few of your letters!

I have been reading about T'Challa since he was introduced, and I still have every BLACK PANTHER issue. I am extremely grateful with the direction that Dr. Ewing has taken this character. For whatever reason, he has not been given the respect he deserves. He is a peer intellectually with Reed Richards, yet he is NEVER mentioned as one of the smartest in the Marvel Universe. Thank you for your tireless efforts. I especially enjoyed seeing Tilda Johnson as well as Deathlok. I would like to see them stick around.

If I may offer a suggestion...Elias Wirtham, also known as Cardiac, has vibranium-mesh skin, and to my knowledge, that has never been explained. It would be nice to see how he came about having it and how T'Challa found out or helped facilitate it. Just a thought.

Raymond Smith

Hello, Mr. Smith! (I feel like you're owed the title since you addressed me so politely.) Sounds like you have an impressive collection—next time, you have to send us a picture. I definitely agree with you about T'Challa being an intellectual powerhouse, both in terms of being formally very learned and also impressive in his thoughtfulness and deductive reasoning. So I'm glad this version of the character resonates with you, as well as the reappearance of some classic characters. As for Dr. Wirtham, you're making an interesting point, especially because he has a checkered history with the moral complications of for-profit science. I wonder if someone, for instance, could have stolen his metal-mesh skin technology (which sounds super painful, by the way) for attempted commercial use...? Lots to think about. Thanks for writing.

Dear Marvel,

I am a YouTube content provider and longtime Black Panther fan. Not since Priest's run on Black Panther have I seen a more respectful look on T'Challa. Eve L. Ewing's run has been phenomenal so far. Thanks, Ms. Eve. ♥ We at the Black Panther Fan Group appreciate your hard work and attention to detail.

Respectfully,
D-Real

And I appreciate you, Black Panther Fan Group! Being compared to Priest is high praise. Much love to y'all, and thanks for reading.

Hello! I would like to start this letter by saying that I love what Eve L. Ewing is doing with Black Panther in this current run. She is doing a great job. I'm hoping to see more content with T'Challa as the Black Panther. My question to you, Eve, is:

If given the opportunity, would you write a narrative/story for a Black Panther video game with the main playable character as T'Challa? I strongly believe T'Challa is in need of his own video game where he is front and center. I would even go so far as to say it's long overdue.

Aaron Khan

Hiya, Aaron! Thanks for the kind words, which are much appreciated. As you may have seen, there are plans for an upcoming Black Panther game from EA. I'm not involved in it, but I know some of the people who have weighed in on the storyline. From a fan perspective, I would love to play a Black Panther game. Not to date this letter, but as of this writing, I'm about to dig into the new Spider-Man 2 game, and I'm excited because the previous game (as well as the Miles Morales DLC) pushed the field forward so dramatically on making games with great narratives at the center where you really feel like you are the character. So hopefully, you and I will both have a lot of fun with the Black Panther game when it's out! Take care.

Dear Eve,

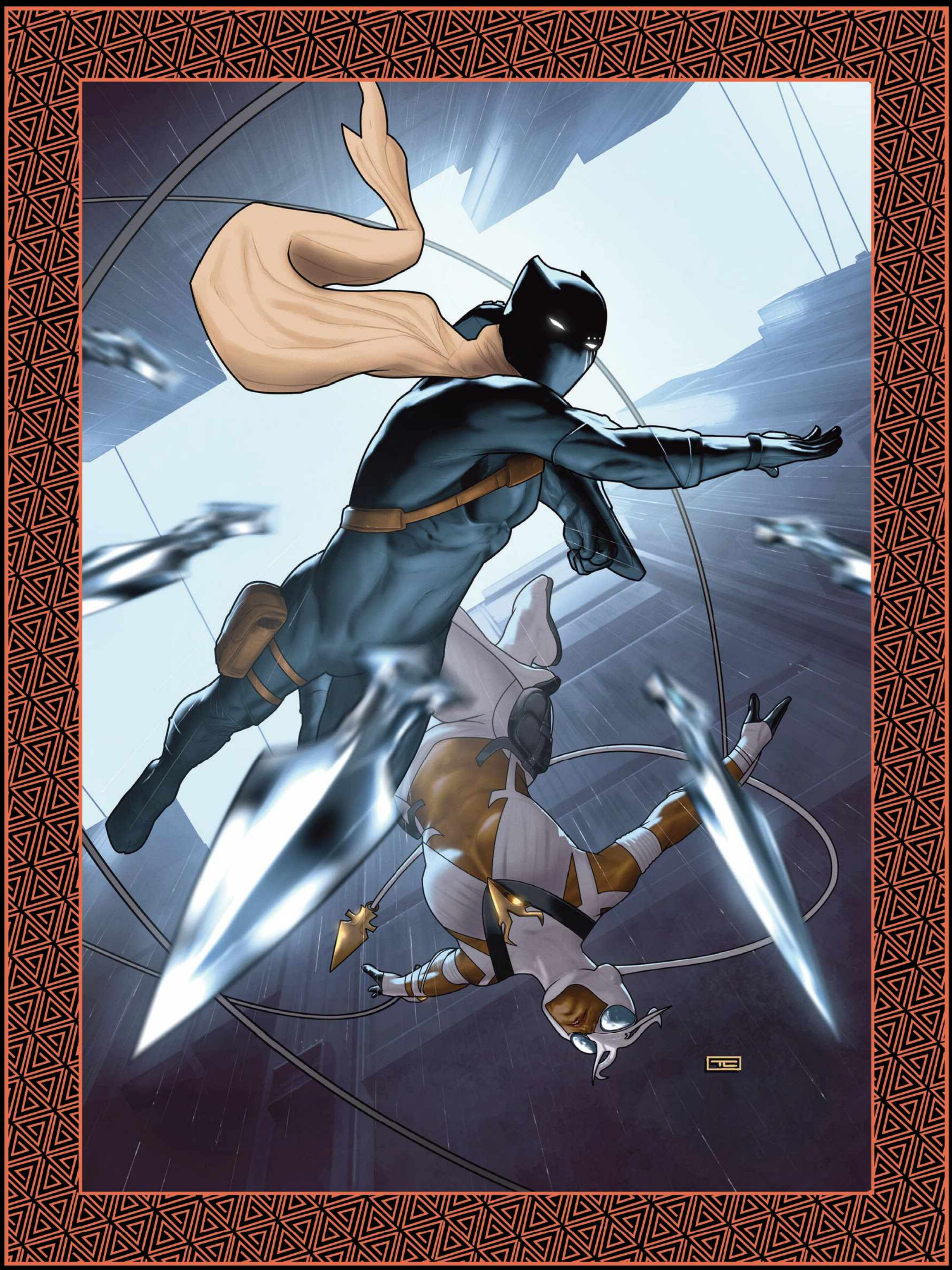
I wanted to send you an email and say a big, big thank you for taking time out of what I am sure is a very busy schedule and reading and responding to my letter in BLACK PANTHER #4! It was such a very nice surprise to see, and please keep up the fantastic work that you are doing with this series.

Best wishes,
Chris Osman
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Appreciate it, Chris! I am lucky enough to have a full schedule, but one of the blessings of my life is that this is part of the job. As one of my professors used to say, "it beats working for a living."

That's all the space we have, so check back in on next month's letter column to see if your letter has been answered by Eve! And for those of you who haven't written in yet, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

NEXT ISSUE:



© 2024 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.